

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 PORT A 01045 240648Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W

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R 231430Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1952

S E C R E T PORT AU PRINCE 1045

STADIS////////////////////////////////

EXDIS

FROM AMBASSADOR

EO 11652 XGDS-2

TAGS: PDEV, EAID, HA

SUBJECT: DUVALIER'S ULTIMATE SURVIVABILITY AGAINST PLOTS

REF: STATE 097589

1. DEPARTMENT'S POINT PARA 3 REFTEL IS WELL TAKEN, AND I SHALL SEEK A MORE PROPITIOUS OPPORTUNITY TO DELIVER THESE UNPALATABLE HOME TRUTHS IN FASHION CALCULATED TO ENSURE THAT THE OBJECTIVE CHARACTER OF THESE OBSERVATIONS IS NOT MISREAD AS ANY KIND OF THREAT. CLEARLY YOUNG DUVALIER, LIKE HIS FATHER, WOULD REACT VISCERALLY TO ANY HINT OF SUCH PRESSURE OR, FOR EXAMPLE, LINKAGE OF OUR AID PROGRAMS, AND HE IS QUITE CAPABLE, SHOULD IT COME TO THAT, OF REVERTING TO A DEFIANT, GO-IT-ALONE ATTITUDE SHOULD HE COME TO BELIEVE U.S. POLICY IS REVERTING TO "BIG STICK" TACTICS OR NEO-OCCUPATIONAL INTERFERENCE.

2. ON OTHER HAND, I THINK WE CAN CONTINUE TO BRING HIM, GRADUALLY, TO A MORE REALISTIC APPRECIATION OF THE POLITICAL FACTS OF LIFE IN U.S. WHICH WILL CONDITION THE ABILITY OF ANY ADMINISTRATION TO DEFEND AID PROGRAMS TO HAITI. IN THIS CONTEXT, VISITS OF SENIOR U.S. OFFICIALS SUCH AS DAN PARKER, SENATORS BROOKE AND PELL HAVE BEEN HELPFUL, AND I HOPE THAT SUCH VISITATIONS CAN BE CONTINUED.

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WE HAVE HAD NO SENIOR DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL IN MANY YEARS, AND

WHILE ANY VISIT BY THE SECRETARY WOULD BE PREMATURE, A STOPOVER
BY EITHER BILL ROGERS, BILL LUERS, OR HERMAN KLEINE (FOR THE
SECOND ROUND) WOULD BE USEFUL AND TIMELY.
ISHAM

SECRET

NNN

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